

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 941 - SB 979

March 12, 2011

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires POST-certified officers to review evidence from traffic enforcement cameras and make the determination whether a violation occurred. Requires the notice of violation or citation be mailed by the applicable law enforcement office to the registered owner of the vehicle captured by the camera and invalidates notice sent by a private vendor. Requires all photographic and video evidence of a violation be made available to the registered owner by secured internet connection. Removes the prohibition against additional penalties and costs assessed for failure to pay traffic citations within 30 days.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase Local Expenditures – \$51,000/Permissive

Assumptions:

- According to a 2011 Fiscal Review Committee survey of communities currently utilizing traffic enforcement cameras, all communities with automated devices measuring speed or driver conduct utilize POST-trained officers exclusively to review all collected data.
- Based on a 2011 Fiscal Review Committee survey of communities electing to utilize traffic enforcement cameras, contracts between camera vendors and local governments have tiered payment structures. Revenue to camera vendors and local governments is based on the number of citations issued per camera. The ratio of revenue to local governments increases as the total number of citations increases. Local governments currently review and determine whether a violation has occurred but camera vendors currently issue citations to offenders.
- According to a 2011 Fiscal Review Committee survey of communities currently utilizing traffic enforcement cameras, there are approximately 116,000 citations issued by local governments each year. The cost to mail citations will be \$0.44 per citation resulting in a permissive increase to local expenditures of \$51,040 (116,000 citations x \$0.44) for those local governments choosing to use traffic cameras. Because contracts with camera vendors are tiered and based on the number of citations issued and not on specific scopes of work, the cost to mail citations will be transferred to local governments without allowing municipalities an opportunity to revise contracts with vendors to reflect new local responsibilities.
- While local departments currently maintain websites, adding a secure page to the site to enable violators to view photographic and video evidence would be required.

Development of secure pages can be accommodated within the existing information technology resources of each municipality or agency.

- Additional revenue from the assessment of penalties to fines paid after 30 days will not be significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

/agl